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NOTES FROM THE WEATHER BUREAU LIBRARY.

By C. FITZHUGH TALMAN, Professor in charge of Library.

METEOROLOGY IN THE SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

What scientific journals should be read by the meteorologist in order that he may maintain at least a paper-. knife aquaintance with the whole multifarious progress of his science? If he be a specialist in certain branches of meteorology, in which journals will he find the most and the best literature pertaining to his specialty? These questions become more and more important as the number of scientific periodicals increases, since there is, as yet, no corresponding increase in the extent to which the literature of each science is segregated, while such nominal segregation as exists is complicated by the overlapping of the sciences, so that meteorology, for example, finds itself dismembered in response to the demands of the physicist, the geographer, the astrophysicist, the geologist, the biologist, the aeronaut, and many others. Bibliographies are of limited utility in disentangling this complication. By the time a scientific memoir is pigeonholed and ticketed in the bibliographies it has lost something of its pristine charm and interest; hence these compilations, though indispensable for many purposes, do not fully meet the requirements of the student whose ambition it is to keep fully abreast of the times and even a little ahead of the times.

Of the journals devoted wholly to meteorology little need be said. They are so few that the meteorologist can easily find time to read all of them, and he naturally does so, except when the languages in which they are published prove an insuperable barrier. Fortunately the reader who knows English, French, German, and Italian need not miss much meteorological literature principal criterion governing our selection is the amount

of world-wide interest. Doubtless he sometimes feels rather tantalized at the sight of the Meteorologicheskii Viestnik (in Russian), Az Idojárás (in Hungarian), or the Journal of the Meteorological Society of Japan (which is mostly in Japanese, though occasional papers are published in English, German, and—Esperanto!); but it is safe to say that there is little of permanent interest in the contents of these exotic publications—except, perhaps, some papers dealing with local climatology—which does not find its way, in abstract or translation, into the journals published in more familiar tongues. Hemel en Dampkring (the leading Dutch journal of astronomy and meteorology) can be negotiated with tolerable facility by the reader who has a good knowledge of German, and a Dutch dictionary at hand for occasional reference.

The Meteorologische Zeitschrift must be named first among the purely meteorological journals published in languages which the majority of meteorologists can read. It is the arena in which the most advanced and vital questions are fought out by acknowledged leaders in the several branches of the science to which it is devoted. The Zeitschrift, the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, and the Monthly Weather Review. with perhaps, the Beiträge zur Physik der freien Atmosphäre, are the indispensable journals to the meteorologist of English speech; but this statement is by no means intended to disparage the great importance of such publications as the Annuaire de la Société Météorologique de France (published monthly, in spite of its name), Das Wetter, the Journal of the Scottish Meteorological Society, Symons's Meteorological Magazine, the Memoirs of the Indian Meteorological Department, the Bolletino of the Società Meteorologica Italiana, the Annalen der Hydrographie und maritimen Meteorologie, and Ciel et Terre (which last, however, is now rather more astronomical than meteorological). Certain annual publications need to be enumerated here, notably the annual reports of the Bureau Central Météorologique de France, the Royal Prussian Meteorological Institute, the Uffizio Centrale di Meteorologia (Rome), and the Lindenberg Observatory, all of which, besides administrative and statistical matters, contain numerous memoirs of the highest interest. The Annuaire Météorologique of the Royal Observatory of Belgium is a somewhat analogous publication, while there are many yearbooks of other meteorological services and observatories which contain occasional memoirs dealing with problems in general meteorology.

The purpose of the present note is not, however, to discuss the ostensibly meteorological journals, but to point out publications of a more general character, or devoted to particular subjects other than meteorology, which nevertheless the meteorologist ought to see regularly on account of the large amount of literature they contain relating directly to his science. The task of selection is not easy. A long list would defeat its purpose, since the average meteorologist has not time to read all the publications that might, with more or less propriety, be enumerated here, nor, in most cases, would he have access to all of them. On the other hand, the writer feels reluctant to omit any of the journals, some two hundred in number, which, with great profit to himself, he searches regularly for meteorological papers to be catalogued in the library, and listed among "Recent Papers" in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW. The editors of the journals not mentioned below will, of course, understand that the

of purely meteorological material ordinarily found in the various publications considered in making up this list, so that the omission of a journal is not a reflection upon its general merit or scientific standing. In fact, the writer proposes merely to jot down a list of the publications that come first to his mind as being of special interest to meteorological readers, without making a critical examination of the files of all the journals at hand in order to verify his impressions.

Two weekly publications which every meteorologist and, in fact, every man of science—reads as a matter of course are Nature (London) and the Comptes rendus of the French Academy of Sciences. Nature is "the scientific man's newspaper," and a "newspaper" according to English canons of dignity and scholarship. In the Comptes rendus the various sciences are conveniently segregated, so that generally the meteorologist finds all that he wants on the last three or four pages of each number. This publication is, of course, totally different in purpose and scope from Nature, and we mention them together merely because they are both weeklies and both indispensable. The American weekly Science publishes, intermittently, a department of meteorological notes and abstracts, but otherwise devotes much less attention to meteorology than does its English contemporary. Among the more popular weeklies, the Scientific American, Prometheus, La Nature, and Cosmos contain meteorological articles or news notes in every number.

Coming, now, to the journals of general science issued monthly or at other intervals longer than a week, certain of these deserve special mention as the recognized channels for the publication of the most important meteorological memoirs written in the countries where they appear. Thus the Sitzungsberichte of the Vienna Academy of Sciences publishes the most substantial contributions of Austrian meteorologists which are too long to appear in the Meteorologische Zeitschrift, and a somewhat analogous service is performed in Russia by the Memoirs of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, and in Scotland by the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Of journals which are not so consciously enlisted in the service of meteorology, but in which this science is nevertheless well represented, may be mentioned the Proceedings and Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, the Philosophical Magazine, the American Journal of Science, the Journal of the Franklin Institute, the Proceedings of the American

Academy, the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, the Archives des sciences, the Atti of the two "Lincei" academies in Rome, the South African Journal of Science, and, among more popular publications, Knowledge, Himmel und Erde, Das Weltall, and the Popular Science Monthly.

Among geographical journals: Petermanns Mitteilungen, Geographical Journal, Geographische Zeitschrift, Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin, Bulletin of the American Geographical Society, Scottish Geographical Magazine, Annales de géographie, la Géographie, Bollettino della Reale Società geografica italiana, and, last but not least, Mitteilungen aus den deutschen Schutzgebieten, with its splendid contributions to the climatography of hitherto little-known parts of the world.

Among physical journals: Physikalische Zeitschrift, Annalen der Physik, Journal de Physique, Annales de physique, Physical Review, and Proceedings of the Tokyo Mathematico-physical society: together with such electrical journals as Elektrotechnische Zeitschrift, Electrician, Electrical World, Jahrbuch der Radioaktivität, and Radium.

Among astronomical journals: L'Astronomie, the Observatory, Annals of Harvard College Observatory (which publishes the memoirs from Blue Hill), and the Astro-

physical Journal.

Of aeronautical journals the name is legion, and all of them are necessarily more or less concerned with the air and the science thereof. Perhaps Technique aéronautique and Deutsche Luftfahrer Zeitschrift are those which the meteorologist can least well afford to overlook.

In the miscellaneous class all of the following must certainly be included: Beiträge zur Geophysik, Terres-trial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity, Zeitschrift für Gletscherkunde, Zeitschrift für Gewässerkunde, Zeitschrift für Balneologie, Engineering News, Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Aus dem Archiv der Deutschen Seewarte, and Zeitschrift für Instrumentenkunde.

Last come various abstracting journals, in which the overworked meteorologist may find tabloid versions of papers which he has not time to peruse more satisfactorily: Science Abstracts, Journal de physique, Fortschritte der Physik (the annual "kosmische Physik" volume), Beiblätter zu den Annalen der Physik, Experiment Station Record, and Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases (the last two containing, especially, abstracts of papers on agricultural meteorology).